

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /085 W

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P R 291530Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3571

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AG, LY

SUBJECT:COLONEL QADHAFI VISITS ALGERIA

1. PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE TRAVELED TO HASSI MESSAOUD, OIL CENTER IN SOUTHEASTERN ALGERIA DECEMBER 28-29 AND MET THERE WITH COL. QADHAFI. DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING BOUMEDIENE WAS MADE UP OF FOLLOWING COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION MEMBERS: FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA, INTERIOR MINISTER ABDELGHANI, AGRICULTURE MINISTER TAYEBI, GENDARMERIE COMMANDER COL. BENCHERIF, MILITARY ACADEMY COMMANDER COL. YAHYAOUI, NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL COL. DRAIA, AND FIRST REGION MILITARY COMMANDER BELHOUCHET. SMAIL HAMDANI, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY, ALSO MADE TRIP. QADHAFI WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY TWO RCC MEMBERS: INTERIOR MINISTER KHOUILDI AND MINISTER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATE BIN AMIR.

2. COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED FOLLOWING RETURN OF TWO
LEADERS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPITALS MORNING DEC. 29,
MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. ALGERIA AND LIBYA SHOULD STAND TOGETHER
IN VIEW SITUATIONS IN BOTH WESTERN AND EASTERN ARAB WORLD.

B. EACH COUNTRY WOULD CONSIDER ATTACK ON REVOLUTION OF THE
OTHER AS AN ATTACK AGAINST ITS OWN.

C. GIVEN COMPLEMENTARITY OF TWO COUNTRIES, INSTITUTIONS
WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN UNITY SHOULD
BE CREATED.

3. COMMENT: TURNOUT OF ALGERIAN COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION
MEMBERS FOR THIS EVENT IS THE LARGEST IN RECENT MEMORY.
ONLY ACTIVE MEMBER OF COUNCIL NOT PRESENT IN HASSI
MESSAOUD WAS 2ND MILITARY REGION COMMANDER COL.
BENDJEDID. ALL COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION MEMBERS PRESENT
HAVE BEEN ACTIVE AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER IN REGIME'S
SAHARA CAMPAIGN.

4. COMMUNIQUE SUGGESTS STRONGLY THAT TWO LEADERS
DISCUSSED SAHARA SITUATION. ARMS ASSISTANCE WHICH
LIBYANS HAVE BEEN FURNISHING ALGERIA IS ALSO LIKELY TO
HAVE COME UP.

5. LANGUAGE OF COMMUNIQUE IS VAGUE AS TO HOW MUCH
SUPPORT LIBYANS WILL IN FACT GIVE TO ALGERIA'S EFFORTS
IN SAHARA. STRESS ON REVOLUTIONARY UNITY AND ON THREATS
FROM WEST AND EAST SUGGEST THAT BOUMEDIENE MAY HAVE
RECEIVED VERBAL ASSURANCES HE SOUGHT. HE SHOULD HAVE HAD
NO DIFFICULTY IN CONVINCING QADHAFI OF WORTHINESS OF HIS
"MAGHREB OF PEOPLES" (AS DISTINCT FROM "MAGHREB OF
STATES") THEME. HOW SPECIFIC QADHAFI'S SUPPORT WILL
BECOME, HOWEVER, REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

6. PERHAPS ALGERIAN PURPOSE WAS NOT SO MUCH TO OBTAIN
MATERIAL SUPPORT AS TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WITH ARAB
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WORLD'S REVOLUTIONARY "BAD BOY." BOUMEDIENE HAS
THREATENED THAT HE INTENDED TO MAKE ALGERIA BAD BOY OF
NORTH AFRICA AND HIS EXCHANGE WITH QADHAFI MAY BE
MEANT SIMPLY TO KEEP THIS THREAT AT FRONT OF EVERYONE'S
MIND. PARKER

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